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Chairman Steinbeisser, Senators Brown, Branae, Hawks, Hutton, Larsen, Moore, Murphy, Ripley, Stewart-Peregoy, Windy Boy

I am a native of Montana, grew up on ranches, became a wildlife management and research biologist on the eastern Rocky Mountain Front, was a cattle rancher in south-central Montana and spent 20 years as a general outfitter and educational tour operator in southwest Montana and also Yellowstone National Park. I have been involved with grizzly bears since 1963 and did the first intensive grizzly bear research in Montana outside national parks from 1975-spring 1980. I keep up on what is happening with several wildlife species including but not limited to grizzly bears, wolves, elk, moose, deer and bighorn sheep.

We need to pass SB 143 to guide Montana FWP and others in grizzly bear management and research in Montana. As Dr. Charles Schwartz USGS research chief for the Yellowstone area said on Oct. 27, 2010 in Bozeman, "The bucket is full" He was referring to the primary conservation area in and around Yellowstone National Park. Dr. Rick Mace MT FWP research chief in the Northern Continental Divide area in Montana said recently that grizzly bears are moving far out of the recovery area to places they have not been in decades. The following are some facts you should consider when approving this bill.

1. Conservative number of grizzlies in Yellowstone area is 603, in Northern Continental Divide 765, and Cabinet-Yaak 40 for a total of 1,408 grizzly bears.
2. Yellowstone adult male bears eat 80 % animal matter and 85% if livestock are present. Adult females eat about 40 % animal matter. Bears in northwest MT eat 95-97 % plant materials. They kill occasional animals and search for carcasses in spring.
3. The Yellowstone bears are very predaceous and aggressive. A 2010 report in the Journal of Wildlife Management by 3 ranchers and county agent on the USFS upper Green River in WY showed a total of 29,693 domestic calves grazed in the years 1995-2004. Grizzlies started killing calves 1995 and wolves in 2000. Grizzly bears killed 520 calves and wolves 177 calves. RANGE reported 114 calves and 37 cows were killed by grizzlies on the Wind River in 1999. On that river in 1996, grizzly and black bears killed 156 sheep and in 1997 420 sheep. Ranchers on the upper Ruby River in MT normally lose only about 30 calves. This year they lost 80 to grizzly bears and wolves. Yellowstone grizzlies kill lots of elk and moose. On the upper Gallatin River in 2005 there were 1,500 elk. The ES season was closed and only about 60 bulls were taken after that. Grizzly bears along with wolves and some help from black bears, mountain lions and coyotes reduced the herd to less than 200 by 2009. Moose in YNP numbered

1,200 in 1995 the year the Canadian wolves were hauled in. In 2009 they could only find 114 moose. Major factors were grizzlies and wolf predation with help from mountain lions, black bear and coyotes. The same problems are in the Northern Yellowstone elk herd. This year 4,635 elk were counted compared to 16,791 in 1995.

4. The aggressive grizzlies mauled 52 people in WY 1992-2010, 27 in southwest MT 1991-2010 and 4 in Idaho 2000-2009. One person was killed in both WY and SW MT in 2010. From 1998-2010 87 grizzly bears were shot in self defense. The 2010 news report number of 15 lumped self defense killing and mistaken ID bears. People mauled by grizzly bears suffer extensive and severe injuries 50 % of the time. Head injuries and extensive hospitalization are common. Please realize large livestock predation and human injury is much lower for the plant loving northern MT bears. Please note that very few people defensively killing bears in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho have been mauled.
5. MT FWP grizzly bear plans for southwest MT 2002-2012 and western MT 2006-2016 state grizzly bears should fill the unoccupied habitat in the counties west of a line on the east boundary of Carbon, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Broadwater, Lewis and Clark, Teton, Pondera and Glacier Counties and west to Idaho. They even hoped bears might exceed those boundaries and move east also. WY and ID have delineated areas of the best grizzly habitat and limited distribution so grizzlies will cause fewer conflicts. Montana has said let them be everywhere and we will manage them. We have seen how well that has worked with wolves.
6. The grizzly management plan for Western MT which came out in 2006 said on page 39 "It should be noted that preemptive moves would not be used to stop distribution increases, undermine recovery, or eliminate the need for people to take actions to avoid conflicts" The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, made up of unelected regional USFS, regional NPS, regional USFWS, regional USGS and unelected representatives from WY, MT ID, WA and some Canadian provinces came up with a 14 page plan for 2010-2014 at a fancy and expensive resort in Nelson, BC in June 2009. Page 11 of that plan says grizzly bears will walk from Yellowstone to Northern Continental Divide area, west to Selway-Bitterroot, from Glacier south and west, etc, etc. Can you say Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) and Wildlands Project warmed over? Genetics experts have said moving two grizzly bears from Glacier National Park to Yellowstone National Park every 10 years would take care of the isolated nature of YNP bears.

Please pass this bill. Grizzly bears are recovered and we need to control their distribution and conflicts. In 2004 the USFWS found that state and federal governments were spending \$6,000.00 per grizzly per year in the lower 48 states. That probably does not include costs to ranchers, people mauled, property destroyed, businesses and resource uses curtailed and the high amount of litigation costs. Both the Montana and Idaho legislatures have said they don't want grizzly bears in the Selway-Bitterroot but they are being ignored by government bureaucrats. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.